

English E/IIIA Homework Activities

Pre-Reading Activities

Activity 1 Key Vocabulary Match these words from the article with their English meanings.. Score: ____ /15

1. ____	gorgeous (adj.)	a. voluntary representative of the United Nations Children's Fund
2. ____	subtle (adj.)	b. to take over, to invade, to win a victory
3. ____	behavior (noun)	c. a noisy or unnecessary disagreement over something that is not important
4. ____	contradiction (noun)	d. to drink something - usually in one gulp
5. ____	controversial (adj.)	e. the words of a song
6. ____	injustice (noun)	f. to give up, to stop doing something before it is finished
7. ____	tribute (noun)	g. the way a person acts to other people
8. ____	lyrics (noun)	h. something that often causes people to disagree or take opposite opinions.
9. ____	a fuss (noun)	i. extremely beautiful
10. ____	rural (adj.)	j. something that is said or given to show gratitude
11. ____	to abandon (verb)	k. relating to country life, not of the city
12. ____	Unicef good will ambassador (noun)	l. not clear, not obvious, difficult to understand
13. ____	to conquer (verb)	m. located on the inside, something kept within
14. ____	to swig (verb)	n. a statement that has the opposite meaning
15. ____	internal (adj.)	o. something that is unfair

Activity 2 Scanning As quickly as possible, search today's article for the answers to these questions. You should take only 3 - 5 minutes, so don't read the article too carefully.

Score: ____ /5

1. How many people attended Shakira's New York concert? _____
2. Where is Shakira's birthplace _____
3. How long has Columbia been experiencing war? _____
4. Who was Shakira's first song tributed to? _____
5. What is the name of Shakira's first English-language album? _____

Activity 3 Skimming Quickly skim (read quickly and lightly) this week's article and mark any new words or expressions. In the chart below, write all the new words or expressions you marked. When you are finished skimming, look up these new words in your dictionaries and write the Japanese meaning. When you are finished with today's lesson, add these words and expressions to your Personal Dictionaries.

English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語

Activity 4 Listening Go to <http://mmuenge.blogspot.com/> and listen to Scott reading today's article. Try this several times and then try reading the article yourself.

Reading-in-Detail Activities

Activity 5 Reading in Detail Read today's article slowly and carefully. Try to understand everything in the article. When you are finished, read the article again out loud. Do this several times to help you understand and remember new vocabulary.

Activity 6 Discussion Questions Once you have read the article several times, think about the questions below. You and your group will discuss these questions in class, so prepare your own opinions and thoughts before you come to class. For the last two, think of two questions about the article on your own.

1. Who is your favorite pop star (male and female)?
 2. Why do you like them? Why do you think they are popular?
 3. What is your favorite song? Why do you like this song? What are your favorite lyrics from this song?
 4. How do Japanese pop stars compare to Shakira? How are they similar/different?
 5. Do you think pop stars should be "political"? Are Japanese pop stars involved in politics?
 6. Shakira has been a performing since she was 10 years old and has been a "star" since she was 14? Do you think such young children should become famous? Why/Why not?
 7. Would you like to be famous? How do you think your life would change if you became famous?
8. (your question) _____ ?
9. (your question) _____ ?

MUCH MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY VOICE

Siobhan Grogan meets Shakira, the Latin pop diva with a political message

Short, gorgeous and immensely popular, Colombia's Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripolli is pop music most eccentric renaissance woman. She paints. She sculpts. She learned English from Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen lyrics, and poems by Walt Whitman. She is a Unicef goodwill ambassador and is currently going steady with Antonio de la Rua, the son of a former President of Argentina. She has sold 27 million albums since she began her working life at the age of 10 performing in a Colombian coal mine - entertaining the miners with her belly dancing.

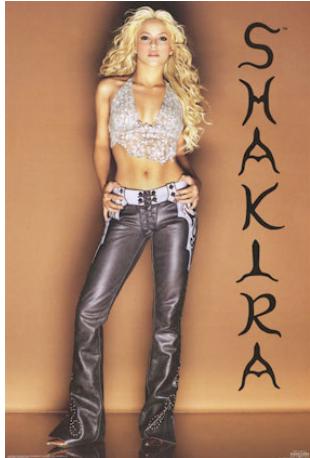


In addition to all this, Shakira is also an out-spoken opponent to American president George Bush and the war in Iraq. At a recent sold-out concert in front of 15,000 New Yorkers, a giant video screen portrayed President Bush as the Grim Reaper playing a game of chess with Saddam Hussein.

"I know pop stars are not supposed to stick their noses into politics, but I refuse to be blind to what is going on," she screamed to the audience. This is hardly a subtle social comment and it was daring for a pop concert in a city still suffering from painful memories of 9/11. Shakira may have sold millions of albums and accepted the "Latin Britney" label, but political action is not the normal behavior of a pop princess.

"Sometimes people don't want to see pop stars giving their opinion about politics. They think pop stars are made to entertain. I come from Colombia, a country that has been in a slow, quiet war for 40 years. Growing up with this makes you have an opinion. It was a little risky to use my show to deliver a message - many people around me told me not to do it - but it was a statement about love and what I feel this world and its leaders are lacking."

This explanation shows the contradictions behind everything Shakira does. While she wants to make serious political observations, she feels it necessary to couch them in less controversial words about love. She points out the control she has over her own career: writing and producing her own material, learning English so that she would not need someone else to translate her lyrics. Yet, she seems equally at home modeling for men's magazines.



Shakira was born in Barranquilla, an industrial town on the Caribbean coast of Colombia and she moved to Miami eight years ago. "I have always been aware of the situation in Colombia," Shakira acknowledges. "A five-year-old child there knows what a guerrilla is. They probably know who Mickey Mouse is, too. They understand that there is injustice."

Her first song, *Your Dark Glasses* was a tribute to her father ("My idol," she declares). At just the age of 14, she released her first album, *Magia*, comprising songs she had written between the ages of eight and 13. In 1995, her third album, *Pies Descalzos*, sold 4 million copies and Shakira the pop star was born. Encouraged by Latin diva Gloria Estefan she spent the next two years studying rhyming dictionaries, the poems of Walt Whitman and the lyrics of Leonard Cohen, hoping to learn English.

"I had to find a way to express my ideas and my feelings, my day-to-day stories, in English." She then went to rural Uruguay to write her debut English-language album, *Laundry Service*. Even more significantly, she dyed her black hair blonde on the eve of the album's release in 2001, to the disgust of a number of her original fans. It was a fuss over nothing, she says. "I'm not pretending to be American. How could I? I am Colombian. I would never abandon the Latin community."

Considering her busy touring schedule, Shakira also finds it difficult to maintain close relationships with people - especially with her current boyfriend, Antonio de la Rua.



"At the moment, it is difficult because this tour is so important," Shakira says of her relationship, while De La Rua waits patiently in the hotel bar, swigging a mineral water. "But he knows that and he's been wanting to give me all of his support. I often rely on him and he helps me organize my head. It's so much to handle all this and he's a man with clear ideas. He helps me deal with my internal mess."

As the interview finishes up, Shakira smiles, stands and gracefully gets her coat. The car is waiting and Antonio's ready to go too. As she leans across to kiss me, her mind is already on the next plane, the next interview, the next city she can confuse and conquer.

The Guardian Weekly 20-2-1226, page 13

For more information on Shakira, check out her official website at:
<http://www.shakira.com/>
<http://blog.livedoor.jp/caliente32/archives/19294722.html>
<http://page.freett.com/bienvenido/shakira.html>

Whenever, Wherever

Lucky you were born that far away so
We could both make fun of distance
Lucky that I love a foreign land for
The lucky fact of your existence

Baby I would climb the Andes solely
To count the freckles on your body
Never could imagine there were only
Ten Million ways to love somebody

Le ro lo le lo le, Le ro lo le lo le
Can't you see
I'm at your feet

Whenever, wherever
We're meant to be together
I'll be there and you'll be near
And that's the deal my dear

Thereover, hereunder
You'll never have to wonder
We can always play by ear
But that's the deal my dear

Lucky that my lips not only mumble
They spill kisses like a fountain
Lucky that my breasts are small and humble
So you don't confuse them with mountains
Lucky I have strong legs like my mother
To run for cover when I need it
And these two eyes that for no other
The day you leave will cry a river
Le ro le le lo le, Le ro le le lo le
At your feet
I'm at your feet

Whenever, wherever
We're meant to be together
I'll be there and you'll be near
And that's the deal my dear

Thereover, hereunder
You'll never have to wonder
We can always play by ear
But that's the deal my dear

Le ro le le lo le, Le ro le le lo le
Think out loud
Say it again

Le ro le le lo le
Tell me one more time
That you'll live
Lost in my eyes

Whenever, wherever
We're meant to be together
I'll be there and you'll be near
And that's the deal my dear

Thereover, hereunder
You've got me head over heels
There's nothing left to fear
If you really feel the way I feel